THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGDISH DESAI) : We shall now take up the clause by clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 to 28 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula, the Preamble and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI Z. R. ANSARI : I move :

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO : Mr. Vice-Chairman, there is a small point. This is with regard to the business of the House. The Opposition is absent. I do not think that we should consider the item regarding the Public Service Commission.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI JAGDISH DESAI) : No. We are not taking up that.

STATE OF ARUNACHAL PRADESH (AMENDMENT) BILL, 1988

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV) : Sir, I move :

"That the Bill further to amend the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The Bill seeks to provide for sixty seats in the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly by amending section 10 of the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986. Section 10 of that Act provides that the total number of seats in the Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh will be forty. The Act further provides that until the Legislative Assembly of the State of Arunachal Pradesh has been duly constituted there shall be a provisional Legislative Assembly of 33 Members (30 elected members of the Legislative Assembly of the erstwhile Union Territory of Arunachal Pradesh and three nominated members of the Assembly).

When the State of Arunachal Pradesh Bill, 1986 was considered by Parliament, Members of this august House suggested that the strength of the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly should be sixty which is the minimum number provided under the Constitution. Again when the State of Arunachal Pradesh Amendment Bill, 1987 was discussed in Parliament during the Budget Session of 1987, the demand to raise the strength of the Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh was made. In addition, the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh has been pressing for raising the strength of the Legislative Assembly from 40 to 60. Accordingly, we have carefully considered the matter. Given the size of the State of Arunachal Pradesh and the thin distribution of the population, there is adequate justification for raising the number of seats in the Legislative Assembly from forty to sixty. We have therefore brought forward the proposed amendment in order to fulfil the aspirations of the people of Arunachal Pradesh.

[The Deputy Chairman in the Chair]

At present, in the provisional Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh, all the 33 seats including the three nominated are held by the members of the Scheduled Tribes of Arunachal Pradesh. The Constitution (Fifty-Seventh Amendment) Act, 1987, provides that if all the seats in the Legislative Assembly of such State in existence on the date of coming into force of the Constitution (Fifty-Seventh Amendment) Act, 1987 are held by the members of the Scheduled Tribes, all the seats except one shall be reserved for the Scheduled Tribes in the Legislative Assembly of any

[Shri Santosh Mohan Dev]

such State. Accordingly, it has been provided in the Bill that on raising the strength from 40 to 60, in the Legislative Assembly of Arunachal Pradesh the number of seats reserved for the Scheduled Tribes will be 59. Delimitation of constituencies will be undertaken by the Election Commission after this Act comes into force.

With these words, Madam, I commend the Bill for the consideration of the House

The question was proposed.

SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI (Arunachal Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to welcome and support the Arunachal Pradesh Amendment Bill. We remember that in 1986 the same august House passed the Bill granting statehood to Arunachal Pradesh unanimously. All sections of the House, all the different parties, supported the Bill and our people are very grateful to all Members of this House for passing the Bill unopposed. After attaining statehood when the Arunachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly met for the first time in Itanagar, the members of the Assembly expressed their gratitude to all the Members of this august House, of course first the honourable Prime Minister, the Home Minister and Members of this House, for their kindness and affection and they always remain grateful. Today we are again going to pass this Amendment Bill for the State of Arunachal Pradesh for which I on behalf of myself and on behalf of the people of my State, thank our honourable Prime Minister, the Home Minister, Mr. Buta Singh and the Minister of State Mr. Santosh Mohan Dev, for taking special interest for passing this Bill in this Session itself.

The people of Arunachal Pradesh are very simple people. They love peace. They are always with the rest of the people of our great country. You remember in 1962 the Chinese attacked our Pradesh and the whole Government and Indian Army were shaken very badly but our people, though very small in number, stood by the Government and our people helped the Indian Army and because of our courage and our unity the enemies had to retreat to their own country. Arunachal Pradesh, the land of the rising sun, is the youngest State of India today with a small population of seven lakhs but a large area of 83,743 sq. kms. bordering Burma and China. It has its own problems of communication, etc. Yet it has made progress in almost all the fields, whether it is education or health or communications, economic, cultural or social. Its brief history after independence has been quite a sacred one. In the process we have received kind and sympathetic consideration from all concerned, right from the time of Pandit Nehruji, Indira Gandhi and to Rajiv Gandhi today. I, on behalf of my people, thank the honourable Prime Minister and the Home Minister and all others once again for granting statehood to Arunachal. I assure the House we hold our national leader in high esteem; we, the people of Arunachal, are national in outlook and are striving hard to join the national mainstream. Our approach to problems is always peaceful. We believe in progress through *shanti*, that is, peace. We are also grateful to the Members of this august House for the increase in the number of Assembly seats in our State from forty to sixty.

Madam, Arunachal Pradesh is purely a tribal population area and all are Scheduled Tribes. However, we accept the decision of the Government. So far our land and culture have in no way been harmed. I pray to this august House to continue their kind approach to the multifarious problems that are before us. I also assure the House of our full co-operation to the Central leadership in making its hands strong in order to make the country stronger, following the path of peace shown by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi

I once again thank you for appreciating our problems and helping us in all possible manner and from the side of our people I assure this august House our full co-operation in the time ahead.

I once again thank you and support this Bill.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI (Assam): Madam Deputy Chairman, I have an emotional attachment to the people of Arunachal Pradesh from the very inception of my political life. I have visited all the areas many times and I know the people of Arunachal Pradesh: so simple, so unsophisticated. At the same time, Madam, you will be glad to know that no religion missionary could go there to disturb their religion or their way of life. Last time, Madam, when statehood was granted to them, I pleaded for the Inner Line Permit system to be maintained for which I was not liked by my people of Assam. Why did I do it? Unless there is an inner line, these people cannot live peacefully and they will be exploited as the tribals of other areas. So, I pleaded for the Inner Line to be maintained and preserved. I am happy that our youthful Prime Minister has been kind enough to allow more seats, to increase the seats from 40 to 60 for fulfilling their aspiration. If you take into account the vast area of the State, the number should be sixty, which should be the maximum for such a vast area.

Madam, the Government has decided to devide the area into eleven districts and it is a wise decision and now eleven districts have been constituted with a population of seven lakhs as mentioned just now by my sister, Mrs. Deori. So, Madam, I am very happy that the number of seats has been increased to 60 with reservation of one seat for non-tribals. I congratulate the Minister and the Prime Minister also for this decision of his wisdom which is like that of his mother, Shrimati Indira Gandhi, and his grandfather, Pandit Nehru. Pandit Nehru had an emotional liking for this area and he had a great emotional attachment to this area. I had the privilege to visit this area along with him two times Once, during one of those visits, one tribal, Goan Gura, stood up and said, "I have 300 mithun and I want to marry your daughter, Indira.". The then Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, at once said, "Yes; I have no objection if Indira agrees to marry.". But Indiraji said, "No; I cannot be happy; I cannot live in the jungle because I am from the town!". Excuse me, Madam. But this is what happened. What I mean to say is that they are so simple people. It reflects character and simplicity. A person's economic condition is judged in terms of the number of mithuns he possess. What is a mithun? It is not there in their houses, they are let loose in the jungle.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM (Assam): It was their currency.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI: Yes. Their economic condition was judged in terms of the number of mithuns one had. It is their special character that they have never tried to take another man's mithuns, which are marked. They will never tried to take another man's things and their character is such. It is so nice and that is why I say that they are unsophisticated tribals who are there in Arunachal Pradesh only. Madam, during the British period, they divided Assam into three categories of areas. One is the excluded area, the other is partially excluded area and the third is the tribal area. Arunachal Pradesh was tribal area and integral part of Assam. It was ruled at that time by the Viceroy through Agent, and then President of India. Now we have converted into full Statehood. It is the kindness of the Centre. After the Chinese aggression, with the Deputy Speaker of the Lok Sabha I visited that area officially. I found it amazing. They told us: "China wanted to take us. We did not go to China. China was nearer to us; India is far away. But we decided to come to India, not China." At the same time the morale of the army is so high. I found not even a single chicken had been taken away by the army personnel. They had very high regards for them. I must congratulate the army personnel in those days. I have visited all the areas and found not a single person disappointed. Therefore, Madam, I congratulate our Government and, at the same time, our young Minister of State, Mr. Dev. I am very happy that he has piloted this Bill for the support of the House. I would only request the Government not to remove the inner life for the

[Shri Dharanidhar Basumatari].

development of the tribal areas for some time to come till they demand themselves.

With these words, I congratulate the Minister and also the Prime Minister for this Bill. Thank you.

SHRI GHULAM RASOOL MATTO (Jammu and Kashmir) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I have had occasion to visit Arunachal Pradesh as a member of a committee. I found that the terrain was very difficult. As my sister said, it is 86000 kilometres in area. It is much more than Kashmir. So I congratulate the Government of India. This was my idea that I should write to the Prime Minister that the number of seats in the Legislature should be increased. This has been increased. I am very grateful to the hon. Minister that he has brought this Bill in this House, though at the fag end.

Only one point I would like to make. We want to the areas called Darang and Bomdi La. I found that the handicrafts indusry like carpets and shawls has been started. But, unfortunately, the Central Government has not yet gone there with the infrastructural facilities by the All-India Handloom Board, All-India Handicrafts Board and the Khadi and Village Industries Board. I would request the hon. Minister through you, Madam, that he should write to the Ministries concerned that they should put up the infrastructure there for the economic development of the area. This is a very backward area. But the people are very nice. Their economic lot should also be made better.

With these words, I congratulate the people of Arunachal Pradesh for having 60 members now. And I also congratulate the Government.

SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH (Gujarat) : Madam Deputy Chairman, this Bill, amending Bill, has a very limited purpose, that is, to raise the strength of the Legislative Assembly from 40 to 60—59 seats to be reserved for Scheduled Tribes and 1 unreserved seat.

Madam, I am particularly happy today because I happen to be an observer of the All-India Congress Committee for the State of Arunachal Pradesh. When I went there the people, irrespective of party affiliations and political ideology, had put forth this demand that the strength of the Assembly should be increased to 60. Their main contention was that Arunachal Pradesh is a sprawling area and most of it is rugged and hilly. And the present area of an Assembly segment is so large that it is mostly inaccessible, particularly in the monsoons. So, they pleaded that there should be a small, viable and contiguous segment, and this could be achieved by a fresh delimitation by bifurcating some of the bigger constituencies. I am very happy and I congratulate the Government for acceding to this demand, and particularly the Minister of State for Home Affairs who has piloted this Bill in this House. I also congratulate the people of Arunachal Pradesh for having got their demand fulfilled. And I wish them all success. Tank you, Madam.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR (Nagaland): Madam Deputy Chairman, I rise to congratulate the Minister of State for Home Affairs for bringing this Bill to increase the seats of Arunachal Assembly to 60 which is the minimum requirement provided under the Constitution of India, Madam, India is a country where we have different communities, different races, different languages and particularly there are so many tribes in the country.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : 600 tribes.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : We are happy to say that we belong to the tribes of the North-Eastern region. And the Bill which has been brought on the floor of this House pertains to one of the sister States of the North-Eastern region—Arunachal Pradesh. India is like a diamond facet. And I am convinced that it is only when

all the segments, whether it is the tribals or the ethnic communities or the minorities, it is only when all these are equally brought up to the same level, it is only when all the segments are satisfied and contented, then only we can have a happy, prosperous united India. It is only then when we smile, it will be like a diamond facet and we shine in different colours and hues.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : Like the pleasant colour of Mrs. Omem Deori's saree.

SHRIMATI OMEM MOYONG DEORI : Thank you, Madam.

SHRI S. C. JAMIR : Even better than that, Madam, during the British rule, the tribals were kept isolated from the mainstream of national life. And the British treated them as museum pieces. If you go through the various writings of the Britishers, they have advocated that the tribals should be completely isolated from the mainstream. They had a different perception of the tribals. But in a free, independent, sovereign India, no part of the country can be kept completely isolated completely secluded from the rest of the country. As a tribal myself, I feel that we should also have got a role to play in shaping and in moulding the destiny of this country. We do not like that the tribals should be a liability, but they should be a contributing factor in this country's development. But this can be done only when they are given an opportunity to develop their genius, to develop their trades and to develop their talents according to their own tradition and customs. India being a secular State, India being a democratic State, India being a socialist State, I think, every citizen, whether one belongs to a minor tribe or a major tribe, has equal rights. Of course, we cannot have equal talents. There might be a difference in talents. But the Constitution provided equality to all. In this context, creation of small states like Arunachal, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur and so many other States, this has been done in consonance with the declared policy of the Government of India. It was Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru who had a vision that every segment of the community should be developed in such a way that the become a jewel of this country. And this is in fulfilment of that dream of Panditji that smaller States in the north-eastern region have been carved out. Now it is entirely up to the people there to develop according to their genius, but since all these States are infant States, and are in an infant stage, we require massive economic assistance. And I am happy to say that today all these north-eastern States are treated as special category States. We are getting 90 per cent assistance and 10 per cent loan. But somehow in reality actually cent per cent assistance has been given to all the States. We are happy for that.

But, Madam, for political dvelopment, political participation is very important. For Arunachal when this Bill was drafted, I was telling from the very beginning to the Chief Minister why don't you stick to the constitutional provision, because don't go according to the population, because our area is so vast, especially in the hilly areas, where you have to see that the representatives are sent from there also. There are so many tribes. And unless you have representatives of all these tribes, there will not be harmony in the Assembly. I am very happy that at long last this Bill has ben brought forward and I congratulate the Home Minister for this.

But, Madam, in tribal areas like Arunachal, land belongs to the people and the only asset or the only wealth that they have got is the land. I feel that certain provisions like article 371A should be made for Arunachal also, and inner line has to

[Shri S. C. Jamir]

be in force because there was a time when the Government of India wanted to rehabilitate all the ex-servicemen there and there was agitation because the people feared that by rehabilitating the ex-servicemen there, who are more trained, more intelligent, they will exploit the local inhabitants and in a sensitive area like Arunachal when the local inhabitants are not happy, or are agitated, or are discontented, this may give rise to national security, and therefore, that policy was abandoned. At one time there was the problem of Chakma refugees, 30,000 of them. I was Parliamentary Secretary attached to Jawaharlal Nehru at that time. We said this is wrong. Do not bring in people from outside, because they are more clever than our people. Our people are simple. So people from outside will outsmart our people and a time will come when they will outnumber our people. And so they will pose a serious danger to our people. I think this issue was taken up by the Arunachal Government and the Government of India should pay attention to this. It is our land. Why should you force somebody there in big numbers. If it is a small number, it is understandable. But in a population of three or four lakhs, 30,000 or 40,000 cannot be accommodated at a time, because then they will multiply and within a period of ten or twenty years our tribals will have no place to stay in their own homeland. It is, therefore, necessary that a serious thought should be given to this aspect.

Lastly, I would again suggest one thing. As far as employment opportunities are concerned, there should be at least 80 to 90 per cent reservation for the local people; of course, certain percentage can be kept open for an open competition, because if we treat them on par with people from advanced States like Bengal or U.P., then our people will have no chance practically if there is a competition. Therefore, with these reservations and with increase in the number of seats, I hope that Arunachal will be a shining State which will contribute for the good of the nation and will definitely play a vital role in moulding the national character and in moulding the national destiny.

With these few words, I once again thank you.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : At the very outset, I must convey my heartful thanks to all the Members who praticipated and supported this Bill. It is a fact that our Prime Minister deserves our heartiest thanks. When this Bill was passed in December 1986, this was the demand from both Houses of Parliament, irrespective of party affiliation, that Constitutional provision should be made for 60 members to be given to Arunachal Pradesh. One of the reasons, as stated by many speakers here today, was that Arunachal Pradesh has a total area of about 83,743 Sq. Km. and the populaiton is 6.28 lakhs. So, the number of seats to be given is 60. Each area constituency will have 1396 sq. km. and population per constituency will be 10,500. Yesterday, in the Lok Sabha, one Member of Parliament speaking on this said that to reach from one end of his constituency to the other end, it takes two months for him. This is the depth of the constituency and this position is due to lack of communication, road communication facility.

Some hon. Members, and also Mr. Jamir mentioned about the tribals and their demands. Mr. Basumatari and Mrs. Deori also referred to it. The Government of India has always taken a special care about North-Eastern region and it is proved from the population pattern and the area that there is vast latitude given and a favourable attitude has been taken by the Government of India always. From here we see that Sikkim with area of 7096 sq km. and population of 316 lakhs has got a House of 32 members; Tripura with area of 10491 sq. km. and popula-

tion of 21.60 lakh has got 60 seats. But it is not a fact that all these States demand these 60 seats. We remember even during the Mizoram accord, Mr. Laldenga said he was happy with 40; the outgoing Chief Minister, Mr. Lalthanwala also said that he was happy with 40, and this morning the ex. Chief Minister met me and said that he is still happy with 40 members. But Arunachal has a special situation and so this has been given. Shri Basumatari mentioned of the inner-land problem Yes, it is in vogue in Arunachal. Mr. Jamir also mentioned about the land. There is a local rule, a local law by which a tribal can sell land only to a tribal, and only subject to the permission being granted by the local Government, can he sell land to a non-tribal. As Mrs. Deon said, it is a fact that 70 to 80 per cent of the population is tribal population. So, we have kept one seat for the non-tribal. But even there, there is no restriction for a tribal to contest from the non-tribal constituency. There is no restriction. I have seen even in Nagaland the seat which has been kept for non-tribal, was contested by the outgoing Chief Minister and he was elected from there.

About economic backwardness, it is true that before independence, the whole area was very much backward. Facts will prove. In the Sixth Five-Year Plan, a sum of Rs 212 crores was given to Arunachal Pradesh and in the Seventh Five-Year Plan, a sum of Rs. 400 crores has been given. After Arunachal Pradesh became a State, the Government of India have given funds for the construction of the new Capital and for various schemes like *jhum* cultivation, horticulture etc. Some hon. Member has mentioned about handicrafts. This is also in the list. I will take it up with the concerned Ministry. There are also forestry schemes, a cement plant, a hydro-electric project and a transmission line project. Madam, recently, I had been to Arunachal Pradesh to open a TV station in a rural area.

In regard to the sentiments expressed by Mr. Jamir, I do not agree with him. I do agree that the people, the tribal people, are very simple. But they are equally smart. You can see the smart Member sitting here. It is an insult to the tribal people to say that they are not smart. They are as capable as any other citizen of the country. They are as good as any other Indian. The tribals have played a pivotal role in the development of the country. I am sure they will continue to play this role. Arunachal Pradesh is an example. As Mrs. Deori has said, the people of Arunachal Pradesh stood the test of time during the Chinese aggression. In spite of the provocations from the neighbouring States, such activities as have taken place in the other north-eastern States have not been there in Arunachal Pradesh. The Central Government have always helped Arunachal Pradesh, whether it was during the period of Panditji or Shrimati Indira Gandhi or now, under the Prime Ministership of Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The Statehood was granted to Arunachal Pradesh at the request of all the political parties from there. The people of Arunachal Pradesh did not resort to any agitation. As said, Statehood was given by our Prime Minister at the request of all the political parties, the present Chief Minister and Members of Parliament from that area.

I am sure, in due course, the 60-Member Assembly will be formed, delimitation will take place and many other things will happen. One Member said that Arunachal Pradesh is economically backward and that developmental activities should be taken up. One information that is available with me shows that the number of schools in 1947 was hardly 35. It has gone up to about one thousand odd. Road communication is also improving. Border roads have been constructed.

SHRI DHARANIDHAR BASUMATARI : How many colleges ?

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : I do not have the information.

AN HON. MEMBER : Four colleges.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Therefore, development is taking place. Government of India will definitely give all possible help. North-eastern States are considered as special category States and in the case of these States, ninety per cent money is given from the Central Government. I am sure the money will be properly utilised by the Governments concerned. The proper utilisation of the money given depends on the Governments there. We expect that the utilisation will be in such a manner that the people will get the real benefit. Of course, when the people from outside the region go there, they do not see it. They must understand that it is basically a backward area. Therefore, it will take some time. I am sure the Governments which are there will take more active interest in developmental activities.

As I said, it is a happy day for us. We assure the Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh, the Members of Parliament from Arunachal Pradesh that we shall take care of their problems. We have taken care Some mention has been made about the heritage and culture of Arunachal Pradesh. We will take care and we will give all necessary help Constitutional safeguard is not necessary. This is the feeling of the Government. We believe that the Government and the people there are competent enough to take care of this problem. We will also give all help.

Madam, with these words, I commend the Bill to the House.

SHRI BAHARUL ISLAM : Madam, just, one interesting information to the House. I had been to Arunachal Pradesh. I visited an interior village. A young man was growing apples. Perhaps, it was in 1978 or 1979. He competed his apples with the Kashmiri apples of Mr. Matto's place and stood first in India in that competition. Therefore I request the Government also to see that this growing of apples in Arunachal Pradesh is also encouraged.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Yes, horticulture is there. We must defeat Mr. Matto every time.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN :The question is :

"That the Bill further to amend the State of Arunachal Pradesh Act, 1986, as passed by the Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill Clause 1,the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV : Madam I beg to move :

"That the Bill be passed."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

VALEDICTORY REMARKS

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) : Hon. Deputy Chairman, I rise now to express my heartfelt thanks and gratitude on behalf of this House to the Chairman, the Deputy Chairman and the Members on the Panel for Vice-Chairmen for efficiently conducting the House and seeing the business through.

Madam, in this Session we were so fortunate as to get the opportunity to pay tributes to the first Chairman of this House Dr. Radhakrishnan. We are also fortunate, Madam, that 29 Bills were passed in this Monsoon Session, besides Special Mentions, Calling Attention Motions and Short Duration Discussions where all shades of opinion were brought together. I would have been happier today if I could see some Members of the Opposition also present at this time. Due to some misunderstanding